

## **NOTICE OF INTENT**

### **Department of Wildlife and Fisheries**

#### **Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

Pursuant to the authority of Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 56, Sections 6 and 727, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent approve and promulgate regulations on the Northwest Louisiana Game and Fish Preserve, proposed by the Northwest Louisiana Game and Fish Preserve Commission, and the Saline Lake Game and Fish Preserve, proposed by the Saline Game and Fish Preserve Commission.

### **Title 76**

#### **WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

##### **Part III. Game and Fish Preserves and Sanctuaries**

##### **Chapter 3. Particular Game and Fish Preserves, Wildlife Management Areas, Refuges and Conservation Areas**

##### **§339. Northwest Louisiana Game and Fish Preserve**

###### **A. Waterfowl Hunting Regulations for Northwest Louisiana Game and Fish Preserve.**

1. Hunting within 350 yards of permitted blind locations prohibited except for the individual permitted for that location and the associated hunting party.
2. Decoys must be removed daily except that decoys may be left for the entire waterfowl season at permitted blind locations. Decoys cannot be placed at such permitted blind locations 30 days prior to waterfowl season, and all decoys must be removed from permitted blind locations no more than 60 days from the last day of waterfowl season. Failure to comply will result in a penalty of \$25.00, which must be paid prior to being issued any subsequent years' blind permit.

3. Individuals must be at least 18 years old and be properly licensed to hunt waterfowl in Louisiana to apply for a blind permit.

4. Construction of or mooring of permanent blinds prohibited except that construction of or mooring of permanent blinds is allowed by permit issued by the Northwest Louisiana Game and Fish Preserve Commission in accordance with the following.

a. All blinds must be properly permitted and constructed no later than thirty days prior to the opening day of waterfowl season.

b. Permits issued must be attached to the blind in a visible location no later than thirty days prior to the opening day of waterfowl season.

c. Any blind location not properly permitted no later than thirty days prior to the opening day of waterfowl season will become an open blind location available to be permitted by the first person to request such permit.

d. A blind is not considered to be properly permitted until the permit is obtained from the Northwest Louisiana Game and Fish Preserve Commission and attached in a visible location on the blind.

e. Any false information given in conjunction with the acquisition of a blind permit will result in the permit being voided.

f. If a blind is not permitted in the above mentioned fashion, then that blind becomes an open blind and can be permitted by anyone within the thirty day period prior to the opening day of waterfowl season.

g. No blind shall be newly constructed or moored, or be allowed to exist within 350 yards of a previously permitted and existing blind. This shall not apply to a blind which was not permitted in the previous year. Consequently, a blind may be constructed within 350 yards of a blind which was not used and properly permitted during the previous waterfowl season.

h. No individual shall be allowed to permit a blind location and fail to hunt said location during the waterfowl season. Any permitted blind location that is not used during the waterfowl season shall become an open location available for anyone to permit the following waterfowl season.

i. No individual shall be allowed to permit more than one blind within confines of the Preserve.

j. Any non-permitted constructed or moored blind will be removed from the preserve by the Northwest Louisiana Game and Fish Preserve Commission.

### **§341. Saline Lake Game and Fish Preserve**

#### **A. Waterfowl Hunting Regulations for Saline Lake Game and Fish Preserve.**

1. Hunting within 350 yards of any shoreline camp or home prohibited. Hunting within 350 yards of permitted blind locations prohibited, except for the individual permitted for that location and the associated hunting party.

2. Decoys must be removed daily except that decoys may be left for the entire waterfowl season at permitted blind locations. Decoys cannot be placed at such permitted blind locations 30 days prior to waterfowl season, and all decoys must be removed from permitted blind locations no more than 60 days from the last day of waterfowl season. Failure to comply will result in a penalty of \$25.00, which must be paid prior to being issued any subsequent years' blind permit.

3. Construction of or mooring of permanent blinds prohibited except that construction of or mooring of permanent blinds is allowed by permit issued by the Saline Lake Game and Fish Preserve Commission in accordance with the following.

a. Individuals must be at least 18 years old and be properly licensed to hunt waterfowl in Louisiana to apply for a blind permit.

b. Blind permits will be available for purchase from August 1 through October 31 of the current year waterfowl season. Any permits not paid for in this time frame will become available on a first come, first serve basis.

c. Any false information given in conjunction with the acquisition of a blind permit will result in the permit being voided.

d. Any changes to existing permits must be submitted in writing to the Saline Lake Game and Fish Preserve Commission.

e. GPS coordinates must accompany any request for a new blind permit. These coordinates will be verified prior to approval by the Commission. These coordinates must represent the exact blind location.

f. All blinds must be properly permitted and constructed no later than thirty days prior to the opening day of waterfowl season.

g. A current or previous years' permit, or photocopy of such, must be attached to the blind in a visible location no later than thirty days prior to the opening day of waterfowl season.

h. Any blind location not properly permitted no later than thirty days prior to the opening day of waterfowl season will become an open blind location available to be permitted on a first come, first serve basis.

i. A blind is not considered to be properly permitted until the permit is obtained from the Saline Lake Game and Fish Preserve Commission and attached in a visible location on the blind.

j. Blind locations will be considered abandoned and declared open by the Saline Lake Game and Fish Preserve Commission, regardless of permit status, if for one complete hunting season no usable blind structure or identification of a usable floating/boat blind is evident.

k. No blind shall be newly constructed or moored, or be allowed to exist within 350 yards of a previously permitted and existing blind. This shall not apply to a blind which was not permitted in the

previous year. Consequently, a blind may be constructed within 350 yards of a blind which was not used and properly permitted during the previous waterfowl season.

l. No individual shall be allowed to permit more than one blind within confines of the Preserve.

m. Any non-permitted constructed or moored blind will be removed from the preserve by the Saline Lake Game and Fish Preserve Commission.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 and R.S. 56:727.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statement, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule, and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule to Steve Smith, Wildlife Management Area Program Manager, P. O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-9000, prior to November 5, 2015.

#### **Family Impact Statement**

In accordance with Act #1183 of 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent. This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

#### **Poverty Impact Statement**

The proposed rulemaking will have no impact on poverty as described in R.S. 49:973.

#### **Provider Impact Statement**

This Rule has no known impact on providers as described in HCR 170 of 2014.

Edwin “Pat” Manuel

Chairman